

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 were pending in the application. Claims 13 and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 43 and 44 have been added. Claims 1, 14, 15, 20, 27, 38 and 39 have been amended. Claims 1-12, 14-36, and 38-44 are currently pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections, Claim Objections, and Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1, 5-6, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czichy, U.S. Patent 6,297,897, in view of Walter, U.S. Patent 4,764,983. Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czichy in view of Walter and in further view of Lee, U.S. Patent 5,405,347. Claims 13-18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim including any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of now-cancelled claim 13. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate a combination of features similar to that of claim 13. Newly added claim 43 includes a combination of features similar to claim 1 (prior to its current amendment) and claim 16. Newly added claim 44 includes a combination of features similar to claim 20 (prior to its current amendment) and claim 16. Thus, for at least the reasons stated by the Examiner, Applicant submits that claims 1, 20, 43, and 44 (along with the currently pending claims dependent upon claim 1) are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections and the claim objections.

Allowed Claims:


Claims 4, 7, 8, 10-12, and 21-42 were allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these claims. Applicant notes that the amendment to claim 27 was to correct a typographical error, and submits that this amendment does not affect its allowability. Similarly, Applicant submits that the amendments to claims 38 and 39 correct dependencies for these claims, but do not affect their allowability.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-28504/EAH.

Respectfully submitted,



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